

Excessive Rainfall Outlook – What does it mean?

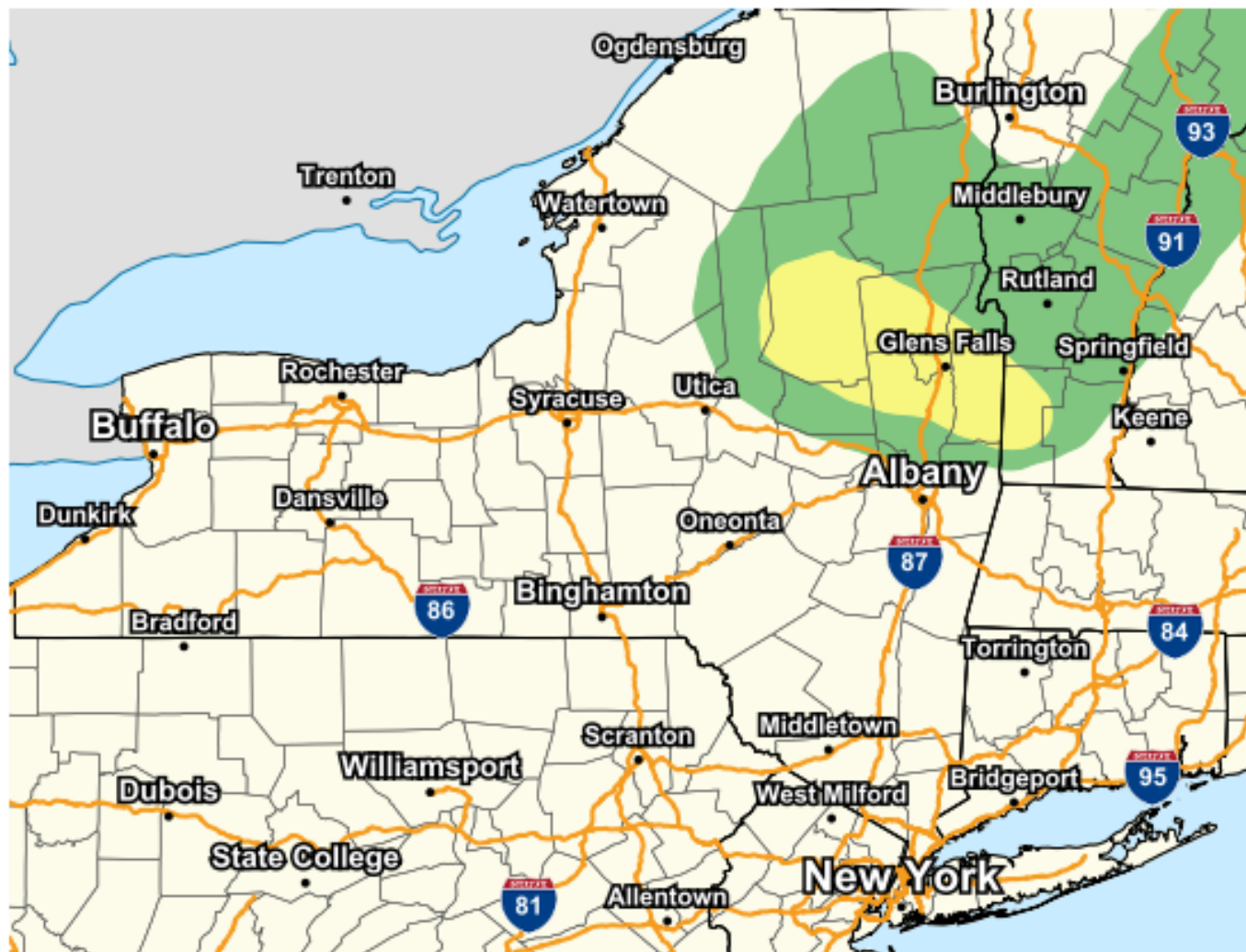


Albany, NY
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE



Day Two Excessive Rainfall Outlook

- Marginal
- Slight
- Moderate
- High



Graphic Created
July 31st, 2021
9:30 PM EDT

Excessive Rainfall Outlook – Risk Categories



Albany, NY
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

- **Excessive Rainfall Outlooks** show the probability that the forecasted rainfall will exceed flash flood guidance.
- **Flash Flood Guidance** is the rainfall in any 1-hour, 3-hour or 6-hour period that would result in rivers and streams up to bank full conditions, so if exceeded flooding would be expected to occur.
- **Excessive Rainfall Outlooks** are issued by the Weather Prediction Center

Risk Category	Probability of Rainfall Exceeding Flash Flood Guidance	Issued for
Marginal (MRGL)	At least 5%	Days 1-3
Slight (SLGT)	At least 15%	Days 1-5
Moderate (MDT)	At least 40%	Days 1-5
High (HIGH)	At least 70%	Day 1-3

Note: Flash floods are rare events at any one specific location, and therefore, the probability of a flash flood is low even when forecasters are confident that flash flooding will occur within the outlook area.








NWSAlbany



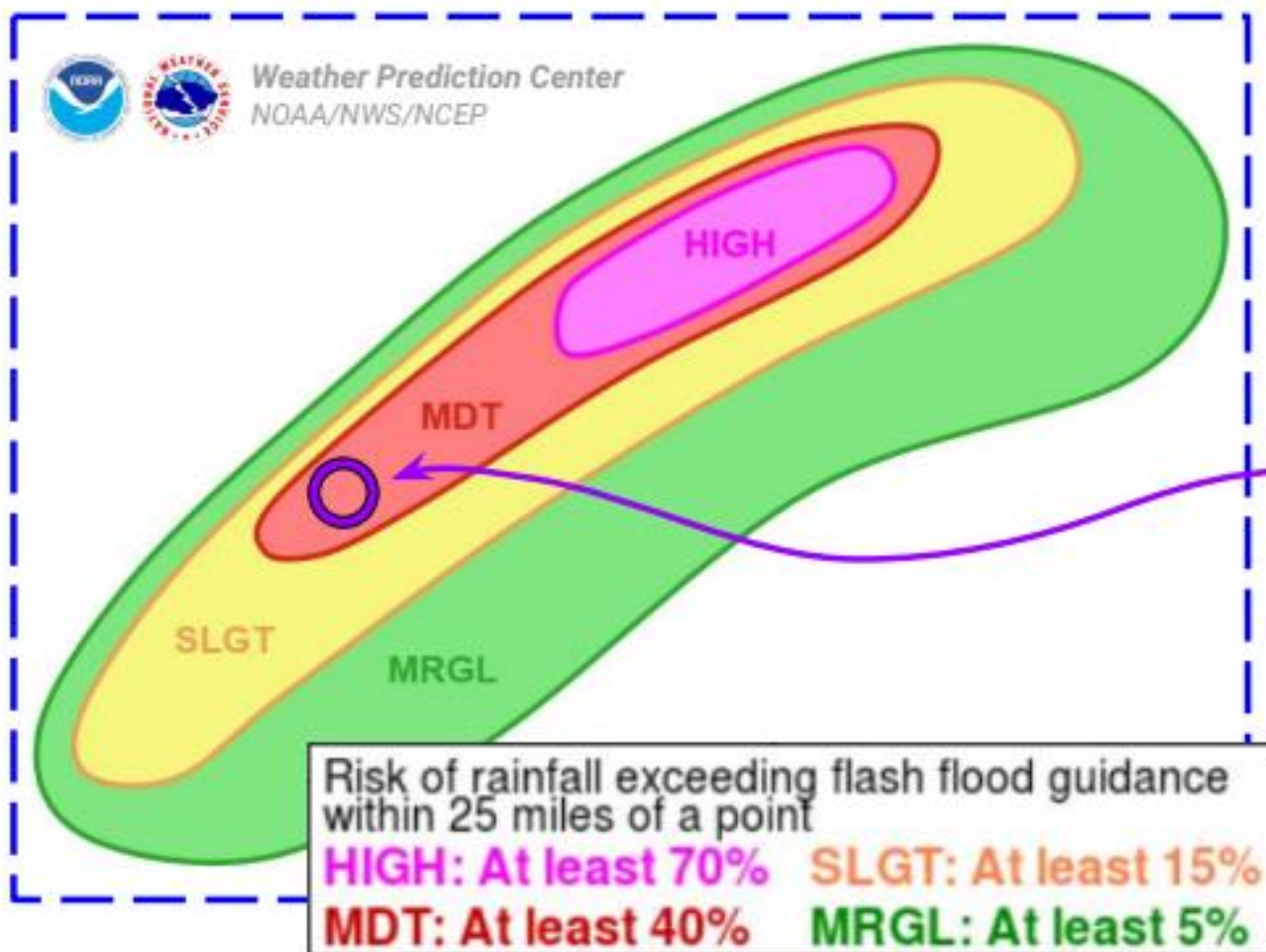
@NWSAlbany

www.weather.gov/aly

Understanding WPC Excessive Rainfall Risk Categories

No Area/Label	MARGINAL (MRGL)	SLIGHT (SLGT)	MODERATE (MDT)	HIGH (HIGH)
Flash floods are generally not expected.	Isolated flash floods possible	Scattered flash floods possible	Numerous flash floods likely	Widespread flash floods expected
Localized and primarily affecting places that can experience rapid runoff with heavy rainfall.	Mainly localized. Most vulnerable are urban areas, roads, small streams and washes. Isolated significant flash floods possible.	Numerous flash flooding events with significant events possible. Many streams may flood, potentially affecting larger rivers.	Severe, widespread flash flooding. Areas that don't normally experience flash flooding, could. Lives and property in greater danger.	
www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov @NWSWPC				
Flash flooding near me?	Flash Flooding			
NO Flash Flooding				
 WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER				

INTERPRETING THE EXCESSIVE RAINFALL OUTLOOK



IN THE BIG PICTURE

- Orients you to potential problem spots for intense rainfall and resulting flash flooding
- Where is the risk relatively higher?

AT A LOCAL LEVEL

- Describes the probability (definition left) of intense rainfall leading to flash flooding within an area approximately the size of a large metro area or county/parish.
- “What are the chances I’ll be dealing with flash flooding today?”

Characterizing High Risk Days



Based on records over the past 11 years, we can say:

WPC High Risks are a strong indicator of a potentially deadly and damaging flash flood day

46% have at least 1 fatality or injury

Compared to 23% for Moderate Risk Days

62% have at least \$1 million in damages

Compared to 33% for Moderate Risk Days



WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

ERO High Risk Statistics, Version 3
Updated February 12, 2022

New York State has only had 3 high risk days since 2016, so be prepared to act when you see “High Risk”

Excessive Rainfall Outlook – What does it mean?



Albany, NY
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

HIGH RISK OF EXCESSIVE RAINFALL
Potentially deadly and damaging flash flood day. Pay attention!

-  Make sure emergency alerts are enabled on your smart phone for urgent Flash Flood Warnings
-  Have multiple ways to receive a warning if you live in an area vulnerable to flash flooding
-  Consider postponing non-essential road travel. The majority of flood deaths occur with vehicles.

  **Weather Prediction Center**
College Park, Maryland

Background photo: Lumberton, NC; FEMA Photo by Jocelyn Augustino

Excessive Rainfall Outlook – Issuance Times



Albany, NY
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Outlook	Issuance Time	Valid Time Period
Day 1	430 am EDT 330 am EST	8 am to 8 am next day 7 am to 7 am next day
	Noon EDT 11 am EST	Noon to 8 am next day 11 am to 7 am next day
	9 pm EDT 8 pm EST	9 pm to 8 am next day 8 pm to 7 am next day
Day 2	430 am EDT 330 am EST	8 am Day 2 - 8 am Day 3 7 am Day 2 - 7 am Day 3
	430 pm EDT 330 pm EST	Update to already issued Day 2 Outlook
Day 3	430 am EDT 330 am EST	8 am Day 3 - 8 am Day 4 7 am Day 3 - 7 am Day 4
	430 pm EDT 330 pm EST	Update to already issued Day 3 Outlook
Day 4	130 am EDT 1230 am EST	8 am Day 4 - 8 am Day 5 7 am Day 4 - 7 am Day 5
	130 pm EDT 1230 pm EST	Update to already issued Day 4 Outlook
Day 5	130 am EDT 1230 am EST	8 am Day 5 - 8 am Day 6 7 am Day 5 - 7 am Day 6
	130 pm EDT 1230 pm EST	Update to already issued Day 5 Outlook